

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for the production of dialkyl carbonates from the reaction of alcohol, for example C_1 - C_3 alcohols, with urea is disclosed wherein the water and ammonium carbamates impurities in the feed are removed in a prereactor. The water is reacted with urea in the feed to produce ammonium carbamate which is decomposed along with the ammonium carbamates originally in the feed to ammonia and carbon dioxide. In addition some of the urea is reacted with the alcohol in the first reactor to produce alkyl carbamate which is a precursor to dialkyl carbonate. Dialkyl carbonates are produced in the second reaction zone. The undesired by-product N-alkyl alkyl carbamates are continuously distilled off from the second reaction zone along with ammonia, alcohol and dialkyl carbonates under the steady state reactor operation. N-alkyl alkyl carbamates can be converted to heterocyclic compounds in a third reaction zone to remove as solids from the system.